Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Region 4 REOC Update

Subject: **Region 4 Update #8**
Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
Date: May 4, 2010
To: Shane Hitchcock, Regional Incident Coordinator
Thru: Planning Section
From: Situation Unit

Reporting Period: May 3, 2010 1500 – May 4, 2010 1500

1. Background

On April 20, an explosion and fire occurred at the Deepwater Horizon Mobile Offshore Drilling unit (MODU) in the Gulf of Mexico, approximately 50 miles offshore of Venice, La. The incident caused a spill of diesel fuel from the sunken rig and the discharge of crude oil from the well. EPA Region 4 is preparing for a worst case discharge of oil on the shorelines of Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida and is actively integrated into Unified Command (UC) Sector Mobile. British Petroleum (BP) has been indentified as the Responsible Party (RP) for the incident.

Site Name:	Deepwater Horizon Oil	**FPN#:**	N10036
Mobilization Date:	4/27/2010	**Start Date:**	4/28/2010

2. Current Situation

2.1.a Regional Emergency Operations Center

- The Region 4 REOC is operating at Level 1 activation.
- The RICT will ensure that EPA is demonstrating a full level of effort to support Unified Command response activities.
- EPA is currently working on a funding mechanism to cover the ATSDR resources under EPA's PRFA per direction of Unified Command.
- Region 4 REOC is developing a staffing plan and rotation matrix for REOC and field personnel.
- R4 APTMD issued a question to the REOC on whether BP intended to conduct air monitoring at waste staging areas and landfills. REOC contacted the Waste Group in UC

Sector Mobile who reported that the question had been raised earlier in the day and that EPA was strongly encouraging BP to implement air monitoring at waste staging areas. The final decision on this issue will be submitted in a later situation report.

- REOC GIS Coordinator, Phyllis Mann, is designated as the Region 4 Deepwater Horizon data contact. States are requested to obtain data thru their Unified Command. More specific procedures for data acquisition are being developed.

2.1.b REOC- Air

- APTMD continues to coordinate with SESD on air monitoring activities in MS, AL, and FL.
- PM data shows no exceeedances of the NAAQS. VOC data is expected to be available on 5May10.
- Plans are being made to collect aerosols at selected sites. Concerns have been expressed about contamination of VOC canisters by the oily aerosols; however, filters should prevent canister contamination.
- Sampling collected by BP's contractor, CTEH, on 3May10 shows no exceedances of PM standards and no VOCs were detected.
- Plans are to alter sampling frequency at NATTS sites in Tampa to provide additional monitoring coverage. OAQPS has agreed to this enhancement and coordination with Tampa's air monitoring program is taking place. Paper work is being completed to add VOC canister analyses to existing ERG lab contract. ERG has the capability to produce data from 10 canister analyses per day.
- A contract for ERG to conduct laboratory analyses for VOCs is complete and a funding mechanism is being finalized.
- APTMD has identified health bench mark values for monitored compounds and this list was sent to OAQPS, SF, and R6 for review.

2.1.c REOC- Water

- At the request of NOAA, WPD identified 5 staff members to participate in multi-agency technical workgroups engaged in developing NRDA plans for shoreline assessment.
- Public water systems of potential concern due to the oil spill:
    - MS: No concern about drinking water systems as nearest surface water system is in Jackson (middle of the state).
    - AL: Dauphin Island has 10 shallow wells, 8 of which are close to the center of the island. ADEM is making a visit to the system and will be forwarding a copy of the water system's emergency response plan. The system survived Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina with little more than distribution system damage and a listing storage tank. Inundation has never caused a problem with the drinking water source.
    - FL: There are 2 surface water systems located in the panhandle that may be impacted. They are located in Bay and Gulf counties. The Florida State Emergency Response Team in support of FDEP (the lead response agency for the state of Florida) notes that no impacts to the state are projected through

Wednesday, but Florida continues to make preparations to safeguard the state shoreline.

- WPD is evaluating compliance of a waste water disposal system proposed to be used by BP in Theodore, AL.

2.1.d REOC- Waste

- BP has submitted a revised waste disposal plan "05032010Waste Disposal Plan" (attached) which replaces "MC 52 Waste Disposal Plan V4".
- EPA Region 4 Waste has obtained a list of waste staging areas titled "wastestagingareas.pdf" (attached). This list has been sent to our mapping partners for review of the surrounding community. A map of the waste staging areas is also attached (Staging-waste_disposal.jpeg)
- A list of the waste staging areas was submitted to the Air Sampling Group for possible inclusion in their air monitoring activities.
- BP also submitted a "FINAL Decontamination Procedures Mississippi Canyon 252 TKD 4_24_10 10 am" and "Regional BP Oil Spill Response Plan", which can be found in the documents section of the www.epaosc.net/DeepWaterHorizonRigExplosion

2.2.a Unified Command – Sector Mobile

- UC Sector Mobile is operating as an independent command center and is reporting to Area Command in Robert, LA
  - EPA R4 OSC Chris Russell is embedded in Unified Command at Sector Mobile with USCG, BP, AL, MS and FL
  - EPA R4 OSC Stilman is leading the Environmental Branch at UC Sector Mobile
- Two (2) ATSDR representatives mobilized to Sector Mobile to support Unified Command
- EPA PIO/Crisis Communications Coordinator (Carl Terry) arrived on site at 1300 on 3May10. EPA PIO is coordinating with USCG PIO.
- BP will be paying for MS Gulf Coast Community College to offer HAZWOPER training for individuals interested in working.
- The Gulf of Mexico Program office has identified the Naval Research Laboratory's capability in integrating multiple geospatial mapping and environmental characterization sensors onboard a single aircraft. The NRL Marine Geosciences Division, the Remote Sensing Division, and the Naval Center for Space Technology have access to numerous airborne sensor systems and the experience to integrate, fly and rapidly analyze data from these systems. This information will be passed to Region 6 with a request to pass to Area Command for consideration.

2.2.b UC – Environmental Branch – Air Sampling Group

- OSC Rhame is supervising the Air Sampling Group of the Environmental Branch
- SESD collected 24 hour VOC samples at 4 of the 5 augmented fixed sites:
  - Waveland, MS; Gulfport, MS; Pensacola NAS, FL and Panama City, FL;

  - Samples collected daily beginning 1May10 (4 to date)
  - Turnaround times for samples 4-5 days (results of samples collected on 1May due 5May)
  - The samples are being analyzed by SESD laboratory in Athens, GA
- Area RAEs were deployed this morning at Dauphin Island AL and Long Beach MS. Sensors utilized: H_2S, LEL, O_2, SO_2, VOC, and CO. No elevated readings were recorded.
- SESD developed a written VOC Summa canister grab sampling procedure for VOC sampling in preparation for air sampling on oil skimming vessels near the spill.
- EPA TAGA Bus (1554) was deployed and monitored for VOCs (BTEX) via GC-MassSpec from Dear Island, LA to Gautier, MS. No BTEX readings observed above low ppbv levels during any monitoring events. The concentrations observed were associated with vehicular traffic or isolated sources. Predominant wind was blowing from the north (toward the Gulf/Off-Shore). TAGA monitoring for (BTEX) is underway in MS today.
- Four reports of petroleum odors were received, three in Mobile, AL and one in Gulf Shores, AL. All reports are being followed with air monitoring, and no elevated readings have been detected to date. Unified Command is managing and tracking all reports.
- EPA is coordinating closely with CTEH, BP's contractor, on air monitoring. CTEH is currently performing real time air monitoring for volatiles along the gulf coast. Data will be provided to EPA and included in the overall incident data management system.
  - CTEH has five crews traveling from Venice, LA to Pensacola, FL collecting real-time air monitoring readings for VOCs and H_2S.
  - Crews are collecting benzene concentrations by colorimetric tubes a minimum of four times during a 12-hour shift. Any petroleum odors are noted.

2.2.c UC – Environmental Branch – Water Sampling Group

- David Apanian, of R4 Water Protection Division, has been deployed and is serving as the Water Sampling Group Supervisor.
- Post-impact water sampling plans are being discussed amongst the EPA and the States. A sampling plan will be completed by 10May.
  - Each State is evaluating needs for a post-landfall sampling plan.
  - EPA Water Sampling Group Leader is communicating with BP contractor CTEH on current water and sediment sampling and post-landfall sampling plans.
  - During the next operational period, EPA will send a water liaison to FL, AL and MS to coordinate directly with State water programs.
- SESD collected water and sediment samples at four (4) locations in Mobile Bay
  - In-situ profiling for temperature, DO, salinity, pH, conductivity and turbidity
  - Samples shipped to laboratories on 4May10 (TPH, DRO, and GRO turn around time (TAT) is 24 hours. Metals analyses (sediment) TAT is 48 hours.)
  - VOC analysis for sediment samples will be conducted at the SESD lab
  - Metals analysis for sediment samples will be conducted by a CLP lab
- SESD collecting three (3) remaining samples in Mobile Bay on 4May10
- Three (3) additional samples for water quality baseline will be collected on 5May10

- Three beach locations to be sampled today (Pensacola, Fort Walton, and Panama City Beach, FL) for this baseline water quality study. Additional beach sample locations (to include Apalachicola, FL) are scheduled for the remainder of the baseline water quality study.
- SESD sampling efforts will initially include 30 surface water and 30 sediment samples (includes both beach and bay samples along the coast in the potentially impacted areas).
- SESD requested START analytical support to run approximately 30 water and 30 sediment samples for metals - this includes both beach and bay samples.

2.2d UC – Environmental Branch – Waste Disposal Group

- EPA Waste Disposal Group Leader Steve Spurlin continues to coordinate with BP regarding development of a more detailed Waste Disposal Plan.
- BP indicated they will have plan by the end of today, 4May10.
- EPA Waste Disposal Group Leader provided BP a list of potential landfill disposal locations for MS provided by MS DEQ solid waste contact.
- BP has indicated they intend to utilize one of the facilities as a primary disposal location for oily waste.
- EPA Waste Disposal Group Leader participated in the 1000 CST Waste Disposal Coordination call with EPA HQ and R6. Issues discussed included applicability of the Exploration and Production (E&P) RCRA exemption to the waste material and status of the BP Waste Disposal Plan.
- EPA HQ will provide comments on the current draft BP Waste Disposal Plan to R4 and R6 by end 4May10. EPA HQ indicated the Waste Disposal Plan was forwarded to EPA HQ Senior Management.

2.2e UC – Environmental Branch – GIS/Data Management

- Efforts underway to collect all monitoring and analytical data generated by air, water, and waste groups involved in incident response to include EPA managed teams as well as teams led by State, NOAA, and BP contractors. Both tabular and GIS data being collected and stored in EPA designed database maintained at Mobile Unified Command.
- Region 4's Scribe project was posted yesterday to Scribe.NET and will be updated by 1200 each day with the previous day's data. Data flow established with BP contractor, CTEH to obtain air monitoring data. CTEH data from 29April10 imported into EPA database for publishing to Scribe.NET. START Data Manager will regularly obtain and summarize air monitoring data from START air sampling, CTEH, AirNow, TAGA, ASPECT, and the States for air monitoring report produced by START each morning beginning the next operational period.
- EPA data management continuing to update data management checklists and SOPs to reflect activities and needs specific to Region 4's response.
- EPA data management received and worked with first batch of AirNow data. Also received location data of AirNow monitoring stations and imported data into Scribe. A more efficient electronic data delivery method for obtaining state air monitoring data via the AirNow program should be finalized this afternoon for daily use.
- CTEH will publish air monitoring data to Scribe.NET by 1800 today.

- EPA will continue to identify more GIS/data products to be produced regularly to assist with situational awareness.
- EPA data management worked with SESD lab personnel in Athens to establish EDDs of SESD analytical results to be imported into R4 Scribe. The results will be reported via Scribe.NET.
- EPA data management worked with SESD field samplers and START sample handlers to enter sample data into Scribe and produce labels and Chains-of-custody to send samples to various labs. The SESD sample information will be reported via the R4 Scribe project on Scribe.NET to REOCs and HQ. These activities will continue to occur daily in the afternoon.
- Unified Command anticipates having a consolidated data/GIS system to allow for production of uniform maps for each monitoring activity within the next several days.

3. EPA Assets

3.1 Current Assets Deployed

PERSONNEL	Unified Command Mobile, AL	REOC Atlanta, GA	TOTALS
EPA - OSC	5	6	11
EPA - RSC	1	9	10
EPA - PIO/CIC	12	0	12
EPA - ERT	1	0	1
EPA - SESD	6 (Water) 2 (Air)	0	8
START	2 (GIS) 7 (Air) 1 (Command Spt)	4	14
EPA Warehouse	1 (MCP)	0	1
ESAT Contractor	2 (Air)	0	2
TAGA Personnel	5	0	5
ATSDR Personnel	2	0	2
Other			
TOTALS	47	19	

- Deployed Equipment

Equipment	Total
Bus (TAGA)	2
AreaRAE	8
Mobile Command Post (MCP)	1
Boat	1
BAM 1020 PM2.5 Monitors	5

3.2 Future Assets Deployed

- Additional OSCs and RSC as needed
- START personnel